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1962/11/03

Russian Attitude on Vessels for Red Cross Inspection

B/A3/

Ambassador Yost informed me by telephone at noon that
Narisimhan had been told by Morozov that the USSR:

B/A3/

1. Would not accept U.S. flag vessels for IRC inspection.
Only Soviet or neutral vessels were acceptable. He did not
know whether there were any Soviet vessels available but
stated that Swedish ships would be agreeable. He rule out
Latin American shipping on the grounds that the OAS was not
neutral.

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2. Saw no reason why the Red Cross inspection should last
more than 10 days since Russian removal of missiles, etx.,
would be completed at the end of that period.

3. Considered that the "hail and pass" procedure now being
used by U.S. naval ships on quarantine station should be
followed by the Red Cross ships.

B/A5/
B/A3/

(Narisimhan and Yost's preliminary estimate is that the Russian
stand against the use of U.S. vessels is non-negotiable but
that the suggestion on "hail and pass" is a try-on.)

Narisimhan also informed Yost that the UN had no news of
the arrival in New York of any Red Cross official. The last
word they had from Spinnelli was that he had informed Boissier
of the IRC that Cuba had no objection to Red Cross inspection
of incoming shipments.

Yost also reported some concern in the UN as to whether
the Red Cross would agree to inspect other than Soviet ships bound
for Cuba unless the governments whose flag they flew had
explicitly agreed to such inspection. This would require the
UN negotiating such agreements with other governments. Yost
thought that a decision on our part to continue quarantine
procedures for vessels of governments that had not agreed
would speed the agreement process.

IO:WWallner:of 11/3/62